

# VetTalk Newsletter

WWW.VETTALK.CO.UK

SPRING 08

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Check your tortoise. He/she maybe awake and hungry.
- Wake up your tortoise late January or early February. Hibernating for too long can cause problems.
- Fleas are rearing their ugly heads again, remember to apply your flea and tick treatments to your dogs and cats
- Valentines Day chocolates? Do not leave them lying around. Read the free answer advice section on chocolate poisoning at [www.vettalk.co.uk](http://www.vettalk.co.uk)



## Post hibernation anorexia in tortoises

When does your tortoise have post hibernation anorexia (PHA)?

When your tortoise wakes from hibernation but has not eaten or urinated for a week, treatment is required.

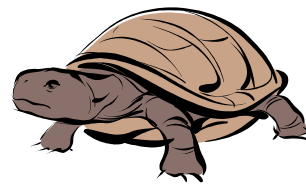
There are many reasons for PHA and part of the treatment requires establishing the reason it occurred.

Check your tortoise for any obvious wounds (e.g. rat bites), frostbite, odd looking appearance to tongue or mouth, swellings of the neck, a runny nose.

If you have any worries take

your tortoise to your veterinary surgery as soon as possible.

How can you prevent PHA? If your tortoise seems healthy, keep it warm in-



doors at around 22-25C. Warm it up slowly. Do not then leave it to get cold again at night. Give it water and facilities to bathe in as well as drink. Shallow warm water is good.

Tasty food, hand feeding anything to start it eating again. Do not underfeed.

My tortoise has PHA, what do I do?

Take your tortoise to the veterinary surgery as a matter of urgency.

Your vet will attempt to rehydrate and feed your pet and try to prevent your tortoise going into kidney failure.

Your vet may give your pet antibiotics if there are signs of infection.

## Spring time flowers and poisoning

Spring and flowers go hand in hand but did you know that some flowers are poisonous to dogs and cats.

Here are a few examples to look for in spring time- Daffodils, all parts of the plant are toxic but the bulb more so. Horse Chestnuts (conker tree), young leaves and flowers and later on the seeds.

These plants usually affect dogs but be careful with cats too as lilies for example, are very toxic to them (see the article in the free answer advice section on [www.vettalk.co.uk](http://www.vettalk.co.uk)).

Dogs may vomit; have diarrhoea, salivation, a painful tummy, anorexia, wobbliness.

If you suspect poisoning see your veterinary surgeon as soon as possible, they may be able to make your pet regurgitate the poison. Your pet may also have to be put on a drip.